

Remarks

Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 7-8 are canceled herein. Claims 3, 6 and 9 are amended herein. Claims 3, 6 and 9 remain pending in the Application.

Rejection under 103(a)

Claims 1, 4 and 7

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 4 and 7 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dempsey (6418540) in view of Cramer (6728897). Applicant has reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submits that the present invention is not rendered obvious over Dempsey in view of Cramer for the following rationale.

Applicant respectfully states that Claims 1, 4, and 7 are canceled herein. Therefore, the rejection with respect to Claims 1, 4 and 7 are moot.

Claims 2, 5 and 8

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 2, 5 and 8 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dempsey in view of Cramer and further in view of Lanus (6161197). Applicant has reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submits that the present invention is not rendered obvious over Dempsey in view of Cramer and further in view of Lanus for the following rationale.

Applicant respectfully states that Claims 2, 5 and 8 are canceled herein. Therefore, the rejection with respect to Claims 2, 5 and 8 are moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowable subject matter of Claims 3, 6 and 9 if rewritten in Independent form to include all of the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims.

Applicant has rewritten Claims 3, 6 and 9 in Independent form to include all of the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the now allowable Claims.

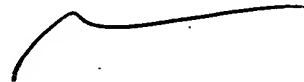
Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 3, 6 and 9.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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